THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) The stock of foodgrains (Wheat and Rice) in the central pool *vis a vis* the buffer norms as on 1.4.2005 is as follows:

(In lakh tonnes)

Foodgrains	Stock	Buffer Norms
Rice	133.41	122.00
Wheat	40.66	40.00
TOTAL	174.07	162.00

The current stocks are adequate for distribution to Below Poverty Line (BPL), Antyodya Anna Yojana (AAY) and Above Poverty line (APL) families under Public Distribution System (PDS). besides, the stocks of foodgrains are utilized to meet the requirements under various Welfare Schemes, Open market Sales and to meet any contingency/emergency situation due to crop failure, natural calamities etc.

(c) and (d) Minimum buffer norms have been prescribed for four different dates *viz* 1st January, 1st April, 1st July & 1st September. The actual stocks of foodgrains vary at different points of time depending upon procurement, stocks in hand and offtake of foodgrains under various schemes. Since the Government is following open ended policy of procurement of foodgrains, it is not possible to restrict the stocks of foodgrains to the minimum buffer norms at all points of time. The Government reviews the stock position of foodgrains from time to time and ensures that there are sufficient stocks to meet the requirements under PDS and Welfare Schemes etc. Steps are taken to ensure that sufficient quantity of foodgrains are available in all parts of the country for meeting the requirements of each State/U.T. Stock of foodgrains available *vis-a-vis* the buffer norms at present are adequate to meet the above requirements.

Complaints in Consumer Courts

3910. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of complaints received by the consumer courts/ consumer redressal fora all over the country during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of cases disposed off each year during that period, State-wise, and by when remaining cases are likely to be disposed off;

(c) the number of cases settled in favour of the consumers, during that period, year-wise and State-wise; and

(d) whether Government would make Consumer Protection Act more stringent to protect consumer's interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) As per the information provided by the National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC), the state-wise details of the complaints filed and disposed off in the District Forums, State Commissions and the NCDRC for the last three years, are given in the statement (*See* below). In so far as the disposal of the remaining cases is concerned, it is stated that although continuous efforts are made to dispose off the cases as quickly as possible, it will not be possible to give a time frame as the time required for disposal varies from case to case.

(c) The information regarding the number of cases settled in favour of the consumers in NCDRC, State Commissions and the District Forums, is not presently maintained by NCDRC which has the administrative control over the consumer forums in calling for reports and returns under section 24B of the Consumer Protection Act 1986.

(d) The Consumer Protection Act, 1986 already has effective and stringent provisions for protecting the interests of consumers.

Statement

State-wise details of cases filed, disposed off in the National Commission, State Commissions and the District forums, for the last three years

NATIONAL COMMISSION:

	2002		2003		2004	
	Filed	Disposed**	Filed	Disposed**	Filed	Disposed**
National Commission	3971	3097	4625	4074	4046	4171

STATE COMMISSIONS:

States/UTs	2002		2003		2004	
	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**
Andhra Pradesh	1121	645	1337	1563	1741	452
A & N Islands	13	8	7	12		
Arunachal Pradesh	6	1	3	3	1	0
Assam	717	39	813	40		
Bihar	595	202	867	507		
Chandigarh	513	331	876	702	520	581
Chattisgarh			1442	463	807	1054
D & N Haveli/Daman & Diu	0	1	1	4	2	2
Delhi	1785	1741	1775	2131		
Goa	145	51	76	98	84	132
Gujarat	2504	1530	1910	2419		
Haryana	3325	1493	3079	1479	3370	47
Himachal Pradesh	1210	810	1409	763	1118	1037
Jammu & Kashmir	283	284	238	253		
Jharkhand	580	505	658	666	451	197
Karnataka	1244	1198	1711	1267	1973	944
Kerala	967	545	1083	562		
Lakshadweep	0	0	2	0	1	0
Madhya Pradesh	2246	2467	2353	2193	2423	2507
Maharashtra	2332	1640	2420	1520	2763	1678
Manipur						
Meghalaya	15	6	14	5		
Mizoram	13	26	8	0		0
Nagaland	2	1	4	1	2	4
Orissa	1122	854	1772	742	1157	538

States/UTs	2002		2003		2004	
	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**
Pondicherry	28	28	36	29	16	37
Punjab	2413	1823	1886	1129	1696	985
Rajasthan	1715	2500	2293	2745		
Sikkim	2	1	3	1		3
Tamilnadu	1206	633	930	660		
Tripura	63	96	65	84		
Uttar Pradesh	2820	311	3774	128		1311
Uttranchal	2401	520	683	910	648	754
West Bengal	895	701	795	1112		
TOTAL	32281	20991	34323	24191	18773	12263

DISTRICT FORUMS:

States/UTs	2002		2003		2004	
	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**
Andhra Pradesh	7303	5980	7599	4354	7344	2942
A & N Islands	23	22	30	23		
Arunachal Pradesh	12	11	13	9	17	11
Assam	2064	1380	2016	1224		
Bihar			4004	3822		
Chandigarh	2663	1067	2378	1249	1805	2410
Chattisgarh	2374	1460	1584	1261	2275	1608
D & N Haveli/Daman & Diu	4	0	4	0	0	0
Delhi	9676	9564	10076	9317		
Goa	326	201	264	268	204	152
Gujrat	7311	7555	7472	6782		
Haryana	11721	12157	12031	14454	9787	2641
Himachal Pradesh	4502	5306	3497	4633	2435	2781

States/UTs	2002		2003		2004	
	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**	Filed*	Disposed*/**
Jammu & Kashmir	1812	707	976	631		
Jharkhand	1471	2233	2965	3225	2079	2456
Karnataka	4727	4769	6337	6626	6067	3185
Kerala	6275	4832	6421	3721		
Lakshadweep	4	1	6	7	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	8291	7593	9324	9533	7640	8476
Maharashtra	26546	22147	11947	13400	9628	12175
Manipur						
Meghalaya	27	36	18	33		
Mizoram	150	116	49	84		0
Nagaland	27	36	18	33		
Orissa	1122	3031	4259	4403	4658	
Pondicherry	103	92	89	0	114	205
Punjab	9066	9308	10669	9831	9309	8973
Rajasthan	11262	12028	13348	14507		
Sikkim	12	13	6	10		
Tamilnadu	3858	4022	4567	4480		
Tripura						
Uttar Pradesh	24608	6466	24799	6431		
Uttaranchal	2189	2393	1729	1881	952	1006
West Bengal	3860	4243	4193	4400		
TOTAL	155298	129997	152832	130887	59656	49021

Note: * Columns are left blank, where no information is received.
** Includes cases filed during previous years.

Import of edible oils

3911. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: